

## Minutes of the First AGM of The Idsworth Church Friends Trust

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 – 2.30pm at St Hubert's Church, Idsworth

The meeting was attended by 18 members of the Friends and the Chairman, Commander Roger Walker, welcomed them all warmly.

1. Apologies were received from: Cllr Marge Harvey, Rev Rosemary Donald, Derek Fawcett, Frances Fawcett, Trish Fisk, Tim Walker, Tracey Eggleston and Elizabeth Uren

Those present: Roger Walker (Chairman), Andrew Callender (Secretary), John Bates (Treasurer), Simon Hartley (Grants Secretary), David Uren, Andrew Fisk, Ann Hartley (Trustees), Mr and Mrs Adams, Mr and Mrs Denby, Capt and Mrs James, Pat Carter, David Eggleston, John Butt, Mr and Mrs Everett.

2. The Treasurer's Report: John Bates gave his financial report for the first year of the Trust, ending on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2017. He stated that the total income amounted to £25,205. The larger part of this sum came from donations amounting to £16,007. Subscriptions accounted for a further £1,320 and grants £4,000. This has allowed the Trust to claim Gift Aid of £1,699.

Total expenditure, including the setting up of the website, production and printing of leaflets, insurance and admin costs came to £3,234. Assets stand at £22,344 as at 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2017.

The Friends register now totals just over 100 associate members, with 10 Trustees appointed. The treasurer stated that the Trustees had done very well to get this new Charitable Trust off to a flying start since the launch in October 2016 and with a comparatively small financial outlay. All expenses are paid and we have no creditors. The treasurer thanked the Trustees for their efforts and, in addition, he was aware of the out-of-pocket expenses borne by them.

3. Grant Applications: Simon Hartley, who is in charge of Grant applications, explained that the main focus was in applying for a major grant to the Heritage Lottery Fund. The work on the building has been drawn up as a result of the Quinquennial Report (May 2016) by our architect Louise Bainbridge and is classed as 'urgent within two years'. The application to HLF amounts to £183,000. The first 'enquiry stage' of the application was submitted in January 2017; the next 'delivery stage' of the application is now in process with a deadline of August 2017. The main criteria to understand for selection by HLF in this highly competitive process, is 'Heritage' and how the church can be appreciated by the wider community. The Friends need to demonstrate community outreach as you see through our programme of events.
4. Forthcoming Events: Andrew Callender, Secretary to the Friends, explained the importance of our programme of events and the primary aim to increase significantly our visitor numbers to St Hubert's. From our first event in August 2016

which was tea and refreshments for 35 members of the Portsmouth Cycle Touring Club, events have developed apace.

The launch of the Friends was marked with an Inaugural Concert in November with 100 people attending an evening of Close Harmony by Winchester College and The Free Radicals, Petersfield. A wide-ranging programme of eight events has been planned for this year including a Folk Evening, Poetry and Prosecco, Farm Walk, Summer and Autumn Concerts and an Art Exhibition.

The Friends have embarked upon links with the South Downs National Park for further projects including the mapping of walks and trails. It is also hoped to raise awareness through articles in the local press and television.

The Trust is appreciative of the support and encouragement it has received from The Parish Council, The Rowlands Castle Association, East Hampshire District Council, Cllr Marge Harvey, Cllr Malcolm Johnson and George Hollingbery, MP.

5. The Chairman's Review: Commander Roger Walker highlighted the success of a recent venture involving an educational visit from St John's Primary School (Year 6). He thanked Mrs Jackie Butt for the lead that she took in making the event such a success. It is hoped that this is the start of many more such ventures with local schools.

The Chairman stated that the task facing the Friends was considerable. The Quinquennial report revealed that £300,000 was required in order to repair and restore the church. The main grant was to HLF for £183,000 but this is a highly competitive process and there is no guarantee of success. The Trustees are also drawing up other small grant applications many of which require matched funding. However, he was encouraged by the very positive progress since the Trust was established in August 2016 and thanked the Trustees for their efforts. He reminded the meeting that the Trust was established as a 'Charitable Incorporated Association' at the request of the Parochial Church Council (PCC). The PCC has formally authorised the Trust to raise funds on its behalf.

6. AOB: Mrs Janet Denby thanked the Trustees for all their hard work and congratulated them on the impressive start that has been made.

The meeting closed at 3.00pm